STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-9 (cancelled now);

Claim 10 (withdrawn);

Claim 11 (new). An HPLC column, comprising

an inner tube; absorbent filling the inner tube; a filter assembly across each inner tube end containing the absorbent; and end coupling members outwardly adjacent the filter assemblies;

an outer tube overlying all of the inner tube and both filter assemblies and having end sections overlying the inward parts of the end coupling members;

each end coupling member having means for providing a mechanical connection for a fitting holding a capillary line, for establishing a liquid-tight serial flow path through the column via the inner tube, absorbent and filter assemblies; and

the outer tube having a cylindrical outer surface extending uniformly substantially end to end and comprising the maximum outer dimension of the column.

Claim 12 (new). An HPLC column according to Claim 11, further comprising the outer tube end sections being inwardly deformed from the cylindrical configuration against the underlying inward parts of the end coupling members for holding the outer tube and end coupling members together.

Claim 13 (new). An HPLC column according to Claim 11, further comprising each end coupling member having a generally radial surface defining a circumferential exterior corner, and the end sections of said overlying outer tube being deformed over and

against said corners.

Claim 14 (new). An HPLC column according to Claim 11, further comprising each end coupling member having axially separated generally radial surfaces defining an axially extended circumferential groove there between, and the end sections of said overlying outer tube being deformed into said groove for holding the outer tube and end coupling members together.

Claim 15 (new). An HPLC column according to Claim 14, further comprising said groove having a depth about equal to, and having an axial width in excess of, the wall thickness of the outer tube, so that the deformed outer tube end sections fit into said groove to where the outer tube end edge is against and partly hidden by the inward facing groove surface.